

TB Times

Shirley Fannin, M.D.

Director, Disease Control Programs

April 1999

Paul T. Davidson, M.D.

Director, Tuberculosis Control Program

Volume 11 Number 4

Brenda Ashkar, RN, MSN given the Henry A. Renteln Award

The Los Angeles County Tuberculosis Control Program was honored for the second year in a row by having one of its staff members selected as the recipient of the annual California Tuberculosis Controllers Association's (CTCA) Henry A. Renteln Award for outstanding contributions to the control of tuberculosis in California. Dr. Davidson made the following remarks regarding Brenda Ashkar during the presentation on April 8, 1999 at the Spring Conference of the CTCA in Berkeley California:



"It is with considerable pleasure and a great honor for me to be asked to present the Henry A Renteln Award to a very deserving recipient for the second year in a row. I assure you that this is a testament to the fact that I have been extremely fortunate to have an exceptional staff working for me as Director of TB Control for Los Angeles County. I am also particularly honored to have been chosen to introduce the first recipient of this award who is a member of the nursing profession. All of us know the absolutely essential role of the Public Health Nurse in all aspects of the control of tuberculosis. We also know of the major contributions that nursing makes to the success of CTCA. Without nurses, it just wouldn't happen!

Brenda began her career as a TB nurse working for the Los Angeles Unified School District, Tuberculosis Prevention Program in 1968. This was followed by a five year tour of duty as a Public Health Nurse at the County of Los Angeles Harbor and Central District Health Centers. In 1973 she joined the Tuberculosis Control Division as a Liaison Public Health Nurse serving at the Harbor/UCLA and later the Rancho Los Amigos Medical Centers. Beginning in 1979 she became the leading TB nurse Consultant and eventually Nurse Manager for the Tuberculosis Control Division, a position she holds to the present day. During these past 20 years, she has been actively involved in nearly all the nursing aspects of TB control and is recognized as a leader in this field locally, statewide, nationally, and internationally.

Conferences

TB Conferences on the first Friday of the month are held in the Andrew Norman Hall of Orthopaedic Hospital, located at Adams Blvd. & Flower Street. The Physician Case Presentations on the third Friday of the month are held at the TB Control Program Office, Room 506A. Participants must sign-in to receive applicable CME credit. Late arrivals of 15 minutes for a 1 hour program or 30 minutes for a 2 hour program will not receive CME credit.

May 7, 1999

9:00 - 10:15a.m.

Ortho. Hospital Conference

"The Role of The Hospital Liaison Nurse in The
Management of TB Patients"

Combined Presentation by Hospital Liaison
Nurses

May 7, 1999

Extended Role Nurse Quarterly Inservice

10:30 am - 11:30 am

Orthopaedic Hospital

Crowe Room

May 11, 1999

Mantoux Skin Testing - "Train the Trainer"

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

TB Control Program Headquarters

May 21, 1999

TB Case Presentations / Discussion

Hanh Q. Lê, M.D.

TB Control Program Office, Room 506

She has served on the Executive Committee of the California Tuberculosis Controller's Association and has been very active in the Association's Nursing and Allied Health Professional Forum. She also was the first President of the National TB Nurse Consultant Coalition and a member of the first Executive Board of the National TB Controllers Association. She is a member of the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease and has been an invited speaker at their annual meeting as well as the North American Regional Meeting. Brenda is a gifted teacher and is often asked to speak and consult regarding tuberculosis issues. She continues to teach at the California State University, Long Beach as an Adjunct Professor in the Nursing Department. I have had the pleasure of working with her during the past 16 years. She is clearly the stalwart nursing leader that has helped to make our Tuberculosis Control Program in Los Angeles County among the best in the world. Those of us who know her well are very much aware of her dedication to tuberculosis control. We also know of her nearly encyclopedic knowledge of all the details concerning how to manage and control this disease. As the first member of the nursing profession to receive this award, I can't think of a more deserving or appropriate person to honor."

MEDICAL LITERATURE REVIEW

Doctors Mark Lobato and Philip Hopewell report an increased incidence of a positive tuberculin skin test in selected California children less than 6 years of age who had traveled in the 12 months before the skin test to a country having a high prevalence of tuberculosis. These children were 3.9 times more likely to be skin test positive than were children who had not traveled. Children born in the U.S. were 4.7 times more likely to be positive. Children who had a household visitor from a high prevalence country were 2.4 times more likely to have a positive skin test than children with no visitors. The authors suggest that physicians and TB control programs incorporate questions about travel and visitors when evaluating children, and tuberculin skin test those with an extended travel history.*

*Lobato, M.N., Hopewell, P.C., Mycobacterium tuberculosis infection after travel to or contact with visitors from countries with a high prevalence of tuberculosis; Am. J. Respir. Crit. Care Med., 1998; 158: 1871-1875.

PRIVATE PATIENT COMPLIMENTS COUNTY CARE

The following is an excerpt of a recent letter received by the Curtis Tucker Health Center: "I would like to take this opportunity to advise you of the outstanding care and treatment I have received since my first contact with the Health Center.

Having been diagnosed with tuberculosis by my private physician, he referred me to your organization for treatment. It has been an absolutely uplifting experience to say the least. I could not have asked for a more professional and caring association with your staff. I have nothing but outstanding comments regarding all of them. From the moment I walked into the lobby asking for directions to my appointment area and throughout all the tests given by your technicians, everyone was extremely professional and friendly. The doctor was very thorough about my diagnoses and treatment and assured me if I followed all instructions I would be cured within a year. This made me feel very much at ease and confident I was indeed in good hands.

I just wanted you to know how much I appreciate the professionalism and dedication everyone there exhibited."

Congratulations to the Curtis Tucker Health Center staff for representing the County so well. Keep up the good work!

FRONT LINES

This is the first installment of a new column for the **TB Times** highlighting nursing and the control of tuberculosis.

Nurses are often on the front lines in fighting tuberculosis in Los Angeles County. "Front Lines" to a District Public Health Nurse means going to the back of the property to knock on a "front" door; fielding questions from the anxious crowd of people seated in the front room on couches (turned into beds at night); assessing the truthfulness and understanding of the interviewees; coordinating your home visit schedule with the contacts who work from 6:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M.; setting up your Mantoux equipment on paper towels next to the catsup on the kitchen table; and deciding on the best action regarding the 9 year-old high-risk TB contact who just ran into the bedroom and hid under the bed when it was his turn for a Mantoux. After all that, it is time to go back to the Health Center to document, document, and document, but only after figuring out how to handle the Salmonella outbreak situation that has just greeted you upon your return. Cont'd on Page 3

Nursing assessments, problem-solving, teamwork skills, knowledge of TB, organizational skills, and interviewing skills are all utilized in making a dent in controlling tuberculosis. Nurses are an essential part of the TB Control team. The TB Times hopes to regularly include information from, about and for TB nursing. Contact Barbara Lewis, editor of this column at TB Control (213) 744-6271 with your ideas, contributions and comments.



F.Y.I.

Phillip L. Moore III to Leave TB Control

After nearly four (4) years as the Chief Executive Assistant to Dr. Davidson, Mr. Moore has received a well-deserved promotion and will be leaving TB Control to assume the Chief Operations Officer position with the newly established Service Planning Area number five (5) with offices in the Burke Health Center. We at TB Control will miss him and his leadership as Managing Editor of the ***TB Times***, but look forward to working with him in his new capacity. Good luck, Phillip!



Bob Miodovski Appointed Managing Editor

Beginning with the May issue of ***TB Times***, Mr. Miodovski will assume the position of Managing Editor for the ***TB Times***. Bob is the Senior Health Educator and Director of the Health Education Unit at TB Control. He has many years of experience working for the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. His knowledge of tuberculosis and organizational skills will be very helpful to the ***TB Times***. We look forward to a "long run" for Mr. Miodovski as our Managing Editor.

In March, Angela Salazar, M.P.H. joined TB Control as the program's newest Health Educator. Angela previously worked with the Los Angeles chapter of the American Lung Association as Asthma Program Manager and TB Project Coordinator. She also served as Project Coordinator with the UCLA Adult TB Project, in conjunction with Hollywood-Wilshire Health Center.

Angela was involved with the UCLA School of Medicine/Center for the Study of Latino Health as a Tobacco Prevention Health Educator and at the UCLA Cancer Research Center as an HIV Research Assistant. We welcome Angela and are delighted with the wealth of experience that she brings to the County. She may be reached at (213) 744-6229 for further assistance.

B. Miodovski



We are happy to welcome Leslie Barnett as Research Assistant I to TB Control and congratulate her on her selection to this new position. Leslie will be managing the Detention and Homeless Housing Program in close collaboration with Dr. Stephen Puentes (High Desert and Acton Rehab Centers) and with the Public Health Investigation staff.

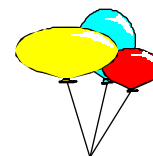
Leslie holds a Bachelor's degree in Social Work from California State University, Northridge, a Master's in Conflict Management from California State University, Dominguez Hills, and a certificate in occupational therapy from Mount St. Mary's College. Before joining the County, she worked as an occupational therapist with a number of private-sector hospitals in Los Angeles County.

Leslie is excited about undertaking the challenges of this new position and looks forward to working with other County professionals. We wish her all the best!

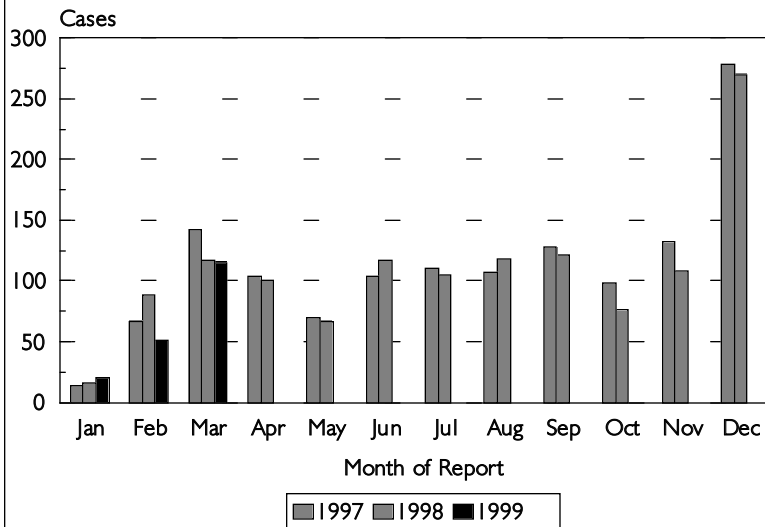


Congratulations to Whittier Health Center for having no overdue confirmations for the month of March. Keep up the good work!!

D. Ingkom.



Los Angeles County Tuberculosis Control Tuberculosis Incidence By Month of Report, 1996-1999



TB Times Editorial Staff

Editor-in-Chief

Paul T. Davidson, M.D.

Managing Editor

Phillip L. Moore III, M.P.A.

Editorial Staff

Farimah Fiali, Epidemiology Analyst

Bob Miodovski, M.P.H., Senior Health Educator

TB Times is a monthly publication to provide information to those interested in TB surveillance and TB Control Program activities. Please forward your articles, comments, suggestions or address corrections to:

TB Times

Tuberculosis Control Program

2615 S. Grand Ave., Rm. 507

Los Angeles, CA 90007

Attn: Phillip L. Moore III, M.P.A.

Office: (213) 744-6160

Fax: (213) 749-0926

TB Times

County of Los Angeles

Department of Health Services

Tuberculosis Control Program

2615 S. Grand Ave., Room 507

Los Angeles, CA 90007



April Topics of Interest...

- ⇒ Brenda Ashkar Receives Renteln Award!
- ⇒ Medical Literature Review
- ⇒ Phillip Moore promoted to Burke Health Center
- ⇒ Bob Miodovski becomes New Managing Editor